

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-7 and 9-13 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth below.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner considers the subject matter of claims 1-4 as being allowable and the subject matter of claims 5-8 as being allowable if certain informalities are corrected. Although not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejections and objections, claims 5, 6 and 7 have been amended to overcome the indefiniteness. Accordingly, claims 1-7 are now in condition for allowance.

Title

Applicants have amended the title to correspond to the current claims.

Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings as not showing the photosensor in claim 8. By way of the present amendment, Applicants have canceled claim 8 rendering this objection moot.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 5-8 and 10 due to various informalities. By way of the present Amendment, Applicants have canceled claim 8 and amended claims 5 and 10 to

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overcome the objections of the Examiner. Claims 6 and 7 have been amended to correct their dependency. Accordingly, these objections are overcome and claims 5-7 are considered to be allowable.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Kuan et al. (U.S. Published Application 2004/0233481) in view of Kobayashi et al. (JP 04-071158 A). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner points out that Kuan et al. shows an apparatus for reducing a warm up time of a lamp including an image sensor module 23, a cold cathode fluorescent lamp 24 and a heating light source 26 to act as an auxiliary light source and reduce a start up time of a scanner. The Examiner admits that Kuan et al. does not disclose the auxiliary light source having a plurality of light emitting diodes.

The Examiner relies on Kobayashi et al. to show a device having a cold cathode fluorescent lamp and a plurality of light emitting diodes serving as an auxiliary light source. The Examiner feels it would have been obvious to apply the light emitting diodes taught by Kobayashi et al. in place of the heating light source of Kuan et al.

Applicants have now amended claim 9 to add a paragraph describing the arrangement of the current supplied to light emitting diodes being adjusted based on the luminance of the cold cathode fluorescent lamp so that the light on the document may be stable over time. Applicants submit that neither Kuan et al. nor Kobayashi et al. include the adjustable current supply based

on the luminance of the cold cathode fluorescent lamp. As neither of these references teach this feature, Applicants submit that claim 9 is now allowable.

Claim 10 depends from claim 9 and as such is also considered to be allowable. This claim further points out that the light emitting devices are light emitting diodes. Accordingly, this claim is considered to be additionally allowable.

Claims 11-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Kuan et al. in view of Kobayashi et al. and Koshimizu et al. (U.S. Published Application 2002/0131094 A1). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner admits that the combination of Kuan et al. and Kobayashi et al. does not show a light guide device provided with a light emitting device where the light emitting device is a light emitting diode. The Examiner relies on Koshimizu et al. to show such a light guide device.

Applicants have now amended claim 11 in a fashion similar to that of claim 9 to describe that the current supply to the light emitting device is adjusted based on the luminance of the cold cathode fluorescent lamp. Since none of the three references teach this feature, Applicants submit that claim 11 is allowable also.

Claims 12 and 13 depend from claim 11 and as such are also considered to be allowable. In addition, these claims further point out that the light guide device is a light guide plate and the light emitting device is a light emitting diode. Accordingly, these claims are considered to be additionally allowable.

Conclusion

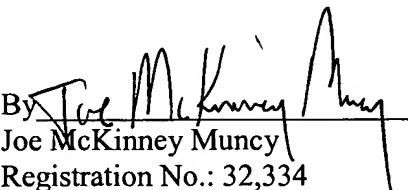
In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patents relied upon by the Examiner, either alone or in combination. In view of this, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments, please contact Robert F. Gnuse, Reg. No. 27,295 at the offices of Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch, LLP.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,


By Joe McKinney Muncy
Joe McKinney Muncy
Registration No.: 32,334
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant